

## Remarks

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1-26 are rejected. Claims 1-3, 8-9, and 15-26 are amended herein. No new matter is added. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-3, 8-9, and 15-26 are amended herein to more distinctly claim that which the applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhatia, et al., (U.S. 6,028,848 – “Bhatia”) in view of Terry, (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0036199).

The invention provides an intelligent data concentrator and a method for performing device address assigning in the intelligent data concentrator. The invention operates to communicatively couple client devices to an Ethernet LAN server through the intelligent data concentrator so that the client devices become part of the LAN. The invention serves as an interface for clients connecting to a LAN, not the LAN itself as in Bhatia and Terry.

It should also be understood that by connecting to the Ethernet LAN through the intelligent data concentrator, the clients also form a PAN within the LAN. The invention is configured to mount within a wall with an accessible interface, e.g., such that it can replace a prior art network jack. In contrast, Bhatia describes a LAN modem that *implements* a LAN, see col. 4, lines 35-44, below:

35 The present invention overcomes the deficiencies in the art and satisfies these needs by providing an ISDN LAN modem that contains an ISDN router, with an internal multi-port hub to implement a LAN (local area network), that  
40 automatically adapts itself to a current network environment of a workstation connected thereto and then permits browser-based configuration, and accommodates several modalities of network communication not heretofore possible in a conventional router.

The LAN *implemented* by Bhatia enables the networked workstations to communicate with each other, remote LANS, and ISPs. It should be understood that the invention communicatively couples client devices to an Ethernet LAN server, e.g., a DHCP server as in claim 4. In contrast, the device in Bhatia *is*, or at least includes, a DHCP server, see col. 6, lines 9-14, below:

10 As a feature of the present invention, the LAN modem advantageously contains internal co-operating DHCP (dynamic host control protocol) and DNS (domain name system) servers that are integrated with routing and call management processes, all utilizing data stored within the shared database.

The invention provides an interface for a plurality of client devices to communicate with a LAN server. Bhatia is a LAN server. Therefore, Bhatia cannot be used to make the invention obvious.

Terry describes a cable modem for connecting a PC or other computing device to the internet through existing cable TV infrastructure, see, e.g., paragraphs [0029] – [0035], and in particular, paragraph [0029], last sentence, below:

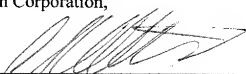
Digital Assistants”). Thus, the present invention allows for communication between the PC 420 and the Internet 504 through substantial use of existing infrastructure used to deliver cable TV signals to user’s television 416.

It would be readily apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art that Terry has nothing to do with an intelligent data concentrator connecting client devices to an Ethernet LAN or performing device address assigning in such an intelligent data concentrator, as claimed. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-26 based on Bhatia and Terry be reconsidered and withdrawn.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should further questions arise concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 50-3650.

Respectfully submitted,  
3Com Corporation,

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